

**APPENDIX**

**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

**Claim 7 is canceled.**

**The claims are amended as follows:**

1. (Amended) A process for the manufacture of a part with very high mechanical properties, said part formed by stamping of a strip of rolled steel sheet ~~and more particularly hot~~ rolled and coated with a metal or metal alloy ensuring protection of the surface and the steel, ~~whereby~~ said process comprising the steps:

- cutting the steel sheet ~~is cut~~ to obtain a steel sheet blank,
- stamping the steel sheet blank ~~is stamped~~ to obtain the part,
- generating an alloyed ~~intermetallic~~ compound ~~is applied to~~ on the a surface of the strip of rolled steel sheet, before ~~or after~~ the stamping, said alloyed compound ensuring protection against corrosion, ~~against and~~ steel decarburization, ~~which intermetallic compound may and~~ provide ~~providing~~ a lubrication function, and
- trimming the excess material from the steel sheet required for the stamping operation ~~is~~ trimmed.

2. (Amended) ~~A~~ The process according to Claim 1 wherein, further comprising:

- ~~the steel sheet is cut to obtain a steel sheet blank,~~

- after the steel blank is cut to obtain the steel sheet blank, subjecting the coated steel sheet blank is subjected to a rise in temperature in order to hot-form a part, [- ]thereby forming an the alloyed intermetallic compound is thereby formed at the surface of the part, said alloyed compound ensuring protection against corrosion, against and steel decarburization, which intermetallic compound may provide and providing a lubrication function,

~~- the steel sheet blank is fabricated by stamping~~

- cooling the stamped part is cooled to obtain such mechanical properties in the steel as high hardness and high surface hardness of the coating,

~~- the excess material from the steel sheet required for the stamping operation is trimmed.~~

4. (Amended) ~~A-~~The process according to Claim 1, wherein the intermetallic-alloyed compound is a zinc-iron or zinc-iron-aluminum based compound.

5. (Amended) ~~A-~~The process according to Claim 1, wherein the coated steel sheet is subjected to a rise in temperature in excess of 700°C prior to at least one of the a stamping and/or heat treatment.

6. (Amended) ~~A-~~The process according to Claim 1, wherein the part obtained in particular by stamping is cooled so that it is quenched at a rate higher than the critical cooling quenching rate.

**Please add the following new claims:**

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111  
U.S. Appln. No. 09/827,167

8. (New) The process according to claim 5, wherein the coated steel sheet is subjected to a rise in temperature in excess of 700°C in an oven.